

## **August 2013**

The Class of 2013 will always hold a special place in my heart, as these students were my first Plainview-Old Bethpage graduating class. On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, faculty and staff, I extend my sincere congratulations to the 403 impressive young men and women who are leaving us. They have made significant achievements on their pathway to what I believe will be distinguished post-graduate experiences. Graduates, you have had an outstanding impact on your community and your district. There is no doubt that you are prepared to handle the next leg of your academic journey and will return to us with astounding stories of accomplishments. The overall character and energy I have seen demonstrated here at Plainview-Old Bethpage makes me ever so proud to be your superintendent, and I know that it delights your parents and teachers as well.

Before the graduation ceremony, I had the opportunity to speak with many of your current and former teachers. Several of them mentioned the countless demonstrations of strength of character coming from the Class of 2013 over the years. You were a class that put your heart and soul into every task you pursued. Whether helping a classmate or a neighbor in need, you have shown that you have the compassion and fortitude that will carry you through your transition to adulthood.

This year we established the theme Moving Forward Together, and it has truly resonated within the halls of each building. We have seen our students win national academic competitions, curate their own museums, produce award winning magazines and newspapers, perform plays that rival Broadway productions and receive acknowledgement for their performances in athletics and the arts. Our POBOTS, Moot Court and DECA clubs have put POB on the map for their stellar performances, meeting and exceeding all expectations made at the beginning of the school year. It is my hope that both the graduates and continuing students will carry this tradition with them as they move into their bright futures.

I would like to thank our wonderfully supportive parents, as well as our community members for their continued support of our schools. With this level of support, the future of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District is guaranteed to successfully prepare students for their 21st century world challenges.

I hope that everyone has a restful and enjoyable vacation. I look forward to working with you on the challenges and opportunities ahead for the coming school year. Our collective efforts will yield bountiful rewards for our students and community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorna Lewis  
Superintendent of Schools